

Arts & Culture Working Group

In the pursuit of a sustainable and inclusive future, the Arts & Culture Working Group envisions a world where creativity, expression, and diversity are at the forefront of sustainable development. The transformative power of arts and culture can bridge divides, foster understanding, and inspire collective action. As creative practitioners and advocates for the integral role of arts and culture in shaping societies, we provide concrete and action-oriented recommendations within the framework of the Pact for the Future.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Recognizing the expansive potential of the arts to stimulate economic growth, the Pact calls for a paradigm shift in perceiving artists and creatives not merely as entertainers but as expressions of identity and creativity but as engines driving multi-sector investment and participation. By advocating for the integration of arts and culture into mainstream economic discourse, in partnership with the private sector and multilateral donors, we envision a future where creative industries attract investments that not only bolster the cultural sector but also contribute significantly to overarching sustainable development goals.

When artists are provided with funding, support and leadership positions to develop community-based fundraising campaigns, events, and initiatives, they become potent catalysts for financing climate change and sustainability needs. The creative realm offers a powerful avenue for conveying the urgency and significance of environmental issues, translating complex scientific data into emotionally resonant narratives that capture public attention. Through innovative and impactful campaigns, artists can leverage their influence to reach diverse audiences, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for climate action and sustainable development. Whether through compelling visual art, immersive performances, or interactive installations, artists possess the ability to evoke empathy

Through intentional collaborations with policy-makers, these advocates wield their creative influence to ensure that emerging technologies adhere to principles of inclusivity and cultural respect. The ACWG envisions a future where these transcultural advocates not only contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage but also play a vital role in developing sustainable policies that effectively address global challenges. Of particular note is the harnessing of the potential of generative AI in a secure manner, where artists and knowledge keepers become instrumental in steering the narrative towards a world where technology, tradition, and innovation converge for the betterment of humanity and the planet.

Recognizing the urgent need for ethical considerations in the technological realm, the ACWG places a strong emphasis on engaging artists in these endeavors. By bringing their unique perspectives, artists become key drivers in shaping narratives that respect diverse perspectives, ensuring that technological advancements align with human values and contribute to the greater good. This chapter envisions a collaborative future where artists, policy-makers, and technological innovators work hand in hand to forge ethical

development, providing them with creative avenues to navigate and contribute meaningfully to the challenges of our interconnected world.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Art, as a dynamic tool for social and political engagement, emerges as a catalyst for public participation and a powerful force to hold governments accountable. By inviting transectoral dialogue between artists and policymakers, the arts become instrumental in challenging the status quo and envisioning a world where justice and equality prevail, laying the foundation for good governance.

Artists, propelled by the imperative of social responsibility, are encouraged to utilize their craft to encourage public participation in decision-making processes. By engaging in critical discourse through thought-provoking works, art becomes a mechanism for citizens to voice concerns, criticize corruption, and actively participate in the governance of their societies. This dynamic interaction not only enriches the fabric of democracy but also demands a governance structure that respects and values the voices of its constituents.

Moreover, the chapter underscores the importance of art in promoting human rights and dignity. By supporting initiatives that advocate for social justice and equal dignity for all individuals, the arts contribute to a collective narrative that emphasizes the intrinsic value of every life. Through multifaceted roles, artists and creatives emerge as essential allies in the transformative process of shaping a governance paradigm that is responsive, just, and reflective of the diverse voices that constitute our global community.

Summary

The Arts & Culture Working Group (ACWG) envisions a transformative future through the Pact for the Future, spanning five integral chapters. In Chapter I, the ACWG advocates for a paradigm shift, recognizing the arts as drivers of economic growth and calling for increased funding and meaningful representation for artists at all levels of policymaking. Chapter II positions artists as architects of international peace and security, with a focus on changing narratives surrounding young people and engaging them as agents for peace. Chapter III underscores the essential role of artists and indigenous knowledge keepers in shaping ethical technological frameworks, ensuring the alignment of emerging technologies with inclusivity and cultural respect. In Chapter IV, the ACWG emphasizes the pivotal role of youth in sustainable development, positioning the arts as a transformative force engaging young people through creative pursuits like music, film, and dance. Introducing Chapter V, the group underscores art as a potent tool for social and political engagement in global governance, urging collaboration between artists and policymakers to foster inclusivity, hold governments accountable, and champion human rights. This collective vision champions the transformative potential of the arts to actively contribute to addressing global challenges, fostering inclusivity, ethical technological frameworks, and an interconnected world for the betterment of humanity and the planet.

Signatories:

Members of the Arts & Culture Working Group

Lisa Russell, Create2030, Filmmaker and Curator, USA

Henry Femi Ojo, Femenni Development Initiative, Singer

Limnesh Augustine, 3D Street Artist, Bahrain

Éloïse Armary, Poet, France/UK

Jincy Babu, 3D Street Artist, Bahrain

Laura Carisa Gardea, Opera Singer, Sound Healing Practitioner, Original Music Artist, Sustainability Designer, USA

Sherry Grant, Concert Pianist/Cellist, Award-winning Poet, Author, Multi-Disciplinary Festival Organiser, New Zealand/Taiwan

Jeannette Fiott, International Art Psychotherapist and Contemporary Artist, Malta

Rick Minnich, Filmmaker, USA/Germany

Olivier Mayange, Eco Architect, Artist & Musician, Film Graphics Designer, Uganda

Aayushi Gupta, Visual Artist and Muralist, Experiential Educator, India

Jonathan Terranova, Visual Artist, USA

Maureen Burns-Bowie, Visual Artist, USA

Halldór Heiðar Kristínarson, Music Journalist, Iceland/México

Ludmila Christeseva, Artist and Activist, Artten Foundation, Sweden/Belarus

Sarah Katz, Katz Tale Media, Documentary Filmmaker, USA